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December 8, 2005

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Re: Title: HEPATITIS C VIRUS NON-STRUCTURAL NS3/4A FUSION GENE
Letters Patent No. 6,960,569 B2
Issued: November 1, 2005
Our Reference: TRIPEP.028AUS

Dear Sir:

Enclosed for filing is a Certificate of Correction in connection with the above-identified patent.

As evidenced by the enclosed copy of the Summary of Interview filed on March 31, 2005, as well as page one of the application as filed on August 15, 2001, the errors cited in the Certificate of Correction were incurred through the fault of the Patent Office. Thus, no fee is believed to be required. However, please charge our Deposit Account No. 11-1410 for any fees that may be incurred with this request.

Respectfully submitted,

Knobbe, Martens, Olson & Bear, LLP

Neil S. Bartfeld, Ph.D.
Registration No. 39,901
Customer No. 20,995

Enclosures

2178167 / 120705

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

PATENT NO. : 6,960,569 B2

DATED : November 1, 2005

INVENTOR(S): Matti Sällberg

It is certified that error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

At page 1, after "filed on Aug. 17, 2000" please add --and U.S. Patent Application No. 09/705,547, filed on Nov. 3, 2000.--.

At page 1, before "and provisional application No. 60/225,767" please delete "and".

At claim 7, after "sequence" please add --encoding a peptide--.

MAILING ADDRESS OF SENDER:

Neil S. Bartfeld, Ph.D.
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PATENT NO. 6,960,569

December 8. 2005

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TRIPEP.028AUS
FORM PTO 1050

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SUMMARY OF INTERVIEW

Applicant	:	Matti Sallberg
Appl. No.	:	09/930,591
Filed	:	August 15, 2001
For	:	HEPATITIS C VIRUS NON-STRUCTURAL NS3/4A FUSION GENE
Examiner	:	Bao Li
Group Art Unit	:	1648

CERTIFICATE OF FAX TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence and all marked attachments are being transmitted via facsimile to the **USPTO Central Fax No. (703) 872-9306** on the date shown below:

March 31, 2005

Eric S. Furman, Ph.D., Reg. No. 45,664

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Examiner's Use ONLY

☐ Discrepancies found, Examiner's Amendment to follow.
☐ Record complete and accurate - Interview Record OK

Examiner's Initials: _____

Review Date: _____

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to the Interview Summary of March 3, 2005, Applicant submits this Summary of Interview for recording in the official file.

Applicant thanks Examiner Li for the courteous telephonic interview conducted on March 3, 2005, wherein Applicant's attorney Eric Furman discussed with the Examiner, an Examiner's amendment that would place the application in condition for allowance.

Regarding the Examiner's amendment of Claim 8, Applicant's attorney respectfully submits that SEQ. ID No. 2 recites a peptide sequence and that the Examiner has not accurately presented the claim that was agreed upon during the interview. In the Examiner's Amendment, The Examiner states that Claim 8 reads:

8. A purified or isolated nucleic acid comprising a sequence of SEQ. ID. No.: 2.

This not correct because the claimed nucleic acid does not comprise a peptide sequence. Applicant's attorney recollects during the interview that the claim that was discussed and allowed recites:

8. A purified or isolated nucleic acid comprising a sequence encoding a peptide of SEQ. ID. No.: 2.

Applicant's attorney requests appropriate correction of Claim 8.

Applicants attorney agrees with the Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance in that the prior art does not teach the claimed nucleic acids or compositions.

Applicant's attorney has made a good-faith effort to present a summary of interview to the best of his recollection and if the Examiner has any questions, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact Eric S. Furman at 619-687-8643 to resolve such issues promptly. Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: March 31, 2005

By: _____

Eric S. Furman, Ph.D.
Registration No. 45,664
Attorney of Record
Customer No. 20,995
(619) 235-8550

SUM-INTERVIEW
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A HEPATITIS C VIRUS NON-STRUCTURAL NS3/4A FUSION GENE

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application claims priority to U.S. Provisional Patent Application Nos. 60/225,767 and 60/229,175, filed August 17, 2000 and August 29, 2000, respectively, and U.S. Patent Application No. 09/705,547, filed November 3, 2000, all of which are hereby expressly incorporated by reference in their entireties.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to the discovery of a novel hepatitis C virus (HCV) isolated from a human patient. Embodiments include novel HCV peptides, nucleic acids encoding said HCV peptides, antibodies directed to said peptides, compositions containing said nucleic acids and peptides, as well as methods of making and using the aforementioned compositions including, but not limited to, diagnostics and medicaments for the treatment and prevention of HCV infection.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Viruses are intracellular parasites that require the biochemical machinery of a host cell for replication and propagation. All virus particles contain some genetic information that encodes viral structural proteins and enzymes. The genetic material may be DNA or RNA, in double- or single stranded form. (Virology, Fields ed., third edition, Lippencott-Raven publishers, pp 72-83 (1996)). The viral nucleic acid is surrounded by a coat of proteins called the capsid. (*Id.*) In some viruses the capsid is surrounded by an additional layer comprised of a lipid membrane, referred to as the envelope. (*Id.* at 83-95).

The typical viral life cycle begins with infection of a host cell through attachment of the virus particle to a cell surface receptor and internalization of the viral capsid. (*Id.* at 103). Accordingly, a virus' host range is limited to cells that express an appropriate cell surface receptor. Once internalized, the virus particle is disassembled and its nucleic acid is transcribed, translated or replicated. (*Id.*) At this point, the virus